



## **SB469 – Task Force to Study Solar Tax Incentives**

**Testimony before**

**House Ways and Means Committee**

**March 30, 2023**

**Position: Favorable with Amendments**

Mdm. Chair, Mdm. Vice Chair and members of the committee, my name is Virginia Smith, and I represent the 750+ members of Indivisible Howard County. We are providing written testimony today in support of SB469, which would establish a task force to study solar tax incentives. Indivisible Howard County is an active member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition (with 30,000+ members). We appreciate the leadership of Senators Elfreth and Guzzone in sponsoring this important legislation.

The state of Maryland passed legislation in 2019 that mandated the state to get half of its electricity from renewable energy sources by 2030, and while campaigning, current Governor Moore pledged to be at 100% clean energy by 2035. To meet either goal, the state will need to better incentivize the use of renewable energy. This task force would study and make recommendations regarding the states' strategy as it relates to solar energy, with the aim to make it more competitive than the current strategy. However, it would also consider the incentives in light of the need to preserve the state's agricultural land and forest land. It would be a fast-acting task force that would be required to complete its report by December 15, 2023, and on June 30, 2024, the act will be repealed.

However, we also agree with amendments submitted by the MD League of Conservation Voters, which includes removing 'tax' from the title, so other incentives are also included. We also agree that in section 1(a)(9) there should be two minority contractor representatives. In Section 1(a)(11) it should specifically be a residential rooftop installer who is one of the representatives of the solar energy industry and two additional representatives should be added that are environmental advocates.

For these reasons, we support SB469 with amendments.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

**We respectfully urge a favorable report.**

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